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WEDNESDAY
JULY 29, 1953

Arose at eight o'clock and walked the beach for an hour, sun obscured by clouds.

A vendor of Le Monde was responsible for my learning the disheartening but expected news that de Gasperi was defeated yesterday on a vote of confidence in the Italian Chamber. I assume this means there will be no European Political Community conference in Baden-Baden on August 6th; what it connotes for a future government in Italy is as yet inscrutable.

The sun was warm and kindly at noon and we commenced to brown.

After lunch I had a telephone call from Sosthène de la Rochefoucauld and met him, with the Porthaults and a charming lady, in the bar. He had wanted us to shoot on September 10th with Robert Gérard and their friends at Bonnetable but I must then be in Luxembourg, so he is going to arrange something later. Sosthène is a picturesque character.

It rained in the late afternoon. The girls and I went to Le Croisic, an enchanting fishing village about seven miles away, for dinner at the Hotel Pertuy du Roy. The sardine boats with varicolored sails lay asleep in the sheltered harbor. We ate all too well of what the menu called "the fruits of the sea", lobster, sole, crab and many others. Here oysters can be consumed every day of the year.

At a small antique store I bought for 6,000 francs a dozen plates of 18th Century French Niderviller china, with the marks of General Custine, that tragic guillotined Revolutionary figure.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

INTERVIEWED BY CAC DATE 7-1-81

☐ FOR XDC ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

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